

Unit Code
H7240
Unit Name
History of the Church in the Middle Ages
Unit Weighting
9 credit points
Type of Unit
Tier 2 Intermediate unit
Prerequisite
9 History credit points at 7100 level
Academic Staff
Glen O'Brien, BTh (Kingsley 1992), MA (ATS 1998), PhD (La Trobe 2006), Senior Lecturer The SCD Faculty Register lists of the names and qualifications of all accredited faculty including the disciplines, subdisciplines, or units that they are accredited to teach.
Curriculum Objectives
This course unit is designed to provide students with an accurate understanding of the key aspects of medieval Church history within its broader social, cultural and political settings, enabling them to appreciate a wider historical context surrounding their other theological studies.
Learning Outcomes
At the end of this unit students will be able to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. analyse definitive aspects of the Medieval Church within a broader social, cultural and political setting 2. demonstrate solid knowledge of political and social events and changes which took place in the Middle Ages 3. exercise critical skills in interpretation of primary sources, especially as they apply to the Church 4. investigate the significance of Church developments within the context of Medieval Christendom 5. relate the importance of the Church in the development of European history
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit
Students need to be able to grasp the concept that history is not just a chronological description of events but involves an interpretive element and a range of methodological approaches.
Content
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charlemagne and the emergence of the Holy Roman Empire in the West 2. Political and social change and their effects on the Church 3. The struggle to develop the papal monarchy in the West 4. Changing and New Religious Orders and movements 5. The Twelfth-Century Renaissance 6. The Church Militant: crusades; heresy and dissent; the Inquisition 7. The disintegration of medieval Christendom: renewed Church-State clashes; the Avignon papacy; the Great Schism, and the Conciliarists 8. Popular religion, practices and devotion
Teaching Methods
Classroom, intensive and extensive learning modes.
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment
Nil
Assessment Profile
Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, assessment of student achievement with respect to the Unit Outcomes will be based on: 1) Analysis of a primary source document (in English translation) (600 words, 20%) - outcomes 1 and 3.

2) An essay that deals with an historical question pertinent to the study of the Middle Ages listed in the Course Content showing its significance for the subsequent history of Christianity (1200 words, 40%) – outcomes 1, 2, and 4.

3) An historiographical essay that discusses the way a range of historians has interpreted the impact of the Church on European history (1200 words, 40%) – outcomes 1, 2 and 5.

Representative References

- Berman, Constance Hoffman, ed. *Medieval Religion: New Approaches*. New York and London: Routledge, 2005.
- Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom*, 2nd Ed. Cambridge: Blackwell, 2002.
- Cowdrey, H.E.J. *Pope Gregory VII 1073-1085*. Oxford: OUP, 1998.
- Frank, Isnard Wilhelm. *A History of the Mediaeval Church*. London: SCM Press, 1995.
- Hollister, C. Warren and Judith M Bennett. *Medieval Europe a Short History*. 9th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002.
- Johnson, Marshall D. *The Evolution of Christianity: Twelve Crises That Shaped the Church*. New York and London: Continuum, 2005.
- Logan, F. W. *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages*. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Mullin, Edward. *The Popes in Avignon: A Century in Exile*. New York: Blue Bridge, 2008.
- Noble, Thomas F.X. and Julia M.H. Smith, eds. *Early Medieval Christianity, c.600 - c. 1100*. Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 3. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Riley-Smith, Jonathan. *The Oxford History of the Crusades*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Rubin, Miri and Walter Simons, eds. *Christianity in Western Europe, c.1100-c. 1500*. Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 4. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Tyerman, Christopher. *God's War: A New History of the Crusades*. Bellknapp/Harvard University Press, 2006.